

May 17, 2010

1400 CST

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 12**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: May 17, 2010

Reporting Period: May 17, 2010 1300 – May 18, 2010 1300

Situation Status:

- NOAA forecasts created on 5/16/10 at 2100 CDT for 5/17/10 at 1800 CDT forecasts the main portion of the oil slick to remain southeast of the Mississippi Delta with a portion stretching east towards Pensacola. Satellite imagery analysis performed by NOAA indicates that the slick extends towards the west past Southwest Pass with shoreline impacts between South Pass and Pass a Loutre. Winds are forecast to be predominately from the south and then the west over the next few days. The ocean models predict a westward or southwestwardly flow for the oil but with the weakened winds, the southern edge of the plume may move more southwestwardly and potentially into the Loop Current.

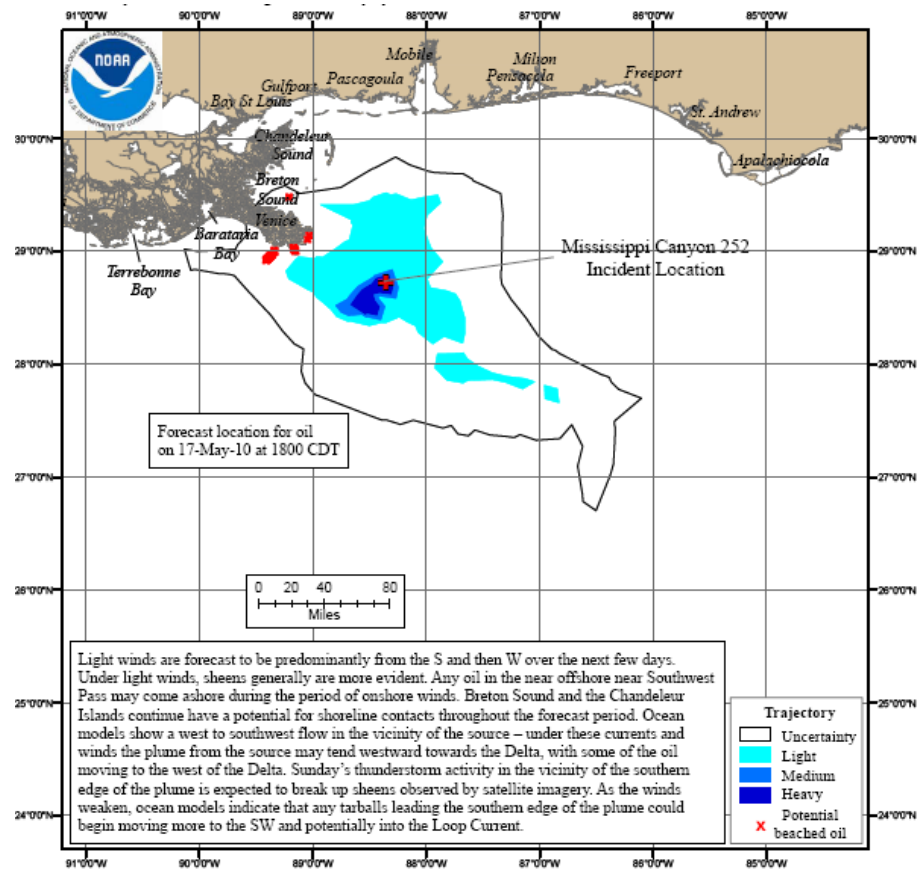


Figure 1 NOAA Oil Slick Estimate provided in NOAA situational report for Deepwater Horizon incident

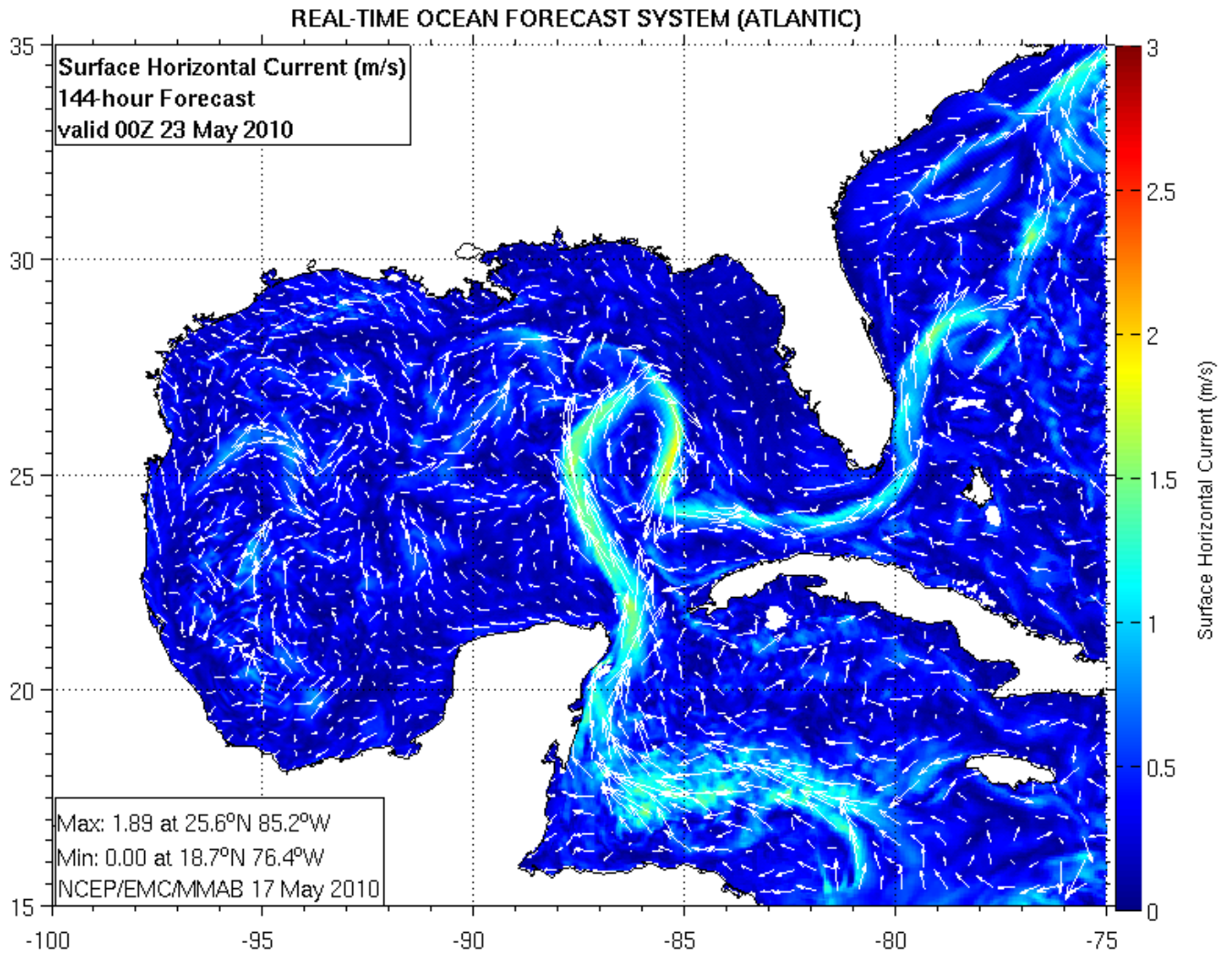


Figure 2 NOAA Current Forecast. Loop Current is light blue to yellow

Monitoring and Assessment

- Watershed Management and Monitoring and Watershed Assessment staff working with REOC Environmental Unit, Region 4, and Headquarters to develop unified post-impact sampling plan.
- Monitoring and Assessment staff worked Saturday on a quick turnaround of SMART nearshore (within 3 nautical miles) sampling plan. This plan will be part of a dispersant sampling effort which will include an offshore component.
- Continued regular calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

List of CWPPRA projects that may potentially become impacted. The list will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Barrier Islands

- PO-27, Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (NMFS Sponsored)
- TE-18, Timbalier Island Planting Demonstration (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-20, Isles Dernieres Restoration East Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-24, Isles Dernieres Restoration Trinity Island (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-27, Whiskey Island Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-37, New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-45A, Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-48, Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/Marsh Creation (NRCS Sponsored)
- **TE-50 Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored)**
- **TE-52 Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration (EPA Sponsored)**
- TE-67, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 1 (NMFS sponsored)
- TE-67B, East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (NMFS sponsored)

Headlands

- TE-23, West Belle Pass Headland Restoration (USACE Sponsored)

Marsh

- MR-09, Delta Wide Crevasses (NMFS sponsored)

Coastal Habitat Impacts

Plaquemines Parish Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Ongoing coordination and analyses with OW and Region 6 staff and managers regarding the State's coastal protection application for emergency permit authorization from the Corps. The State of Louisiana applied for a Corps of Engineers NOD 20 emergency permit to construct sand barriers in the Chandeleur and Grand Terre Island areas to reduce inland movement of the oil.
- Comments were drafted by the Marine & Coastal Section, outlining numerous significant concerns, and was coordinated with OW. Staff participated in an interagency meeting with the Parish on Friday afternoon and on an interagency call this morning. The Corps has requested a list this afternoon of recommended special conditions from each of the resource agencies. Col. Lee and Governor Jindal are discussing the resource agency concerns today and the Corps plans to send out a draft permit for the agencies to review, probably asking for a one-day turn around.

National Estuary Programs (NEPs):

- Ongoing follow up from the OW Gulf Monitoring Coordination conference call was focused on identifying the various Gulf monitoring efforts that provide baseline data and those ongoing and planned sampling and monitoring events. In addition to EPA staff from many agency offices, representatives from the Barataria-Terrebonne NEP, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, and Charlotte Harbor Estuary Program participated. This conference call will continue to be held every other week.

OW Ecological Impact Team:

- Continuing efforts to build upon the combined OW, Region 6, and Region 4 ecological impacts document for use by OW managers, as well on worst case scenarios and ecological Q's and A's.

Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Ongoing consultations with both the New Orleans and Galveston Corps Districts regarding maintenance dredging and dredged material management options for major navigation projects, focusing particularly on the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- There is nothing to report today.

NPDES

- Continuing coordination with 6WQ, 6EN, 6RC, and HQ staff on NPDES permitting questions asked by BP regarding oil recovery and relief well operations.
- Developed list of facilities that have industrial cooling water intakes in Region 6. List now includes contact information where available.
- NPDES Permits and TMDLs Branch stands ready to provide technical assistance as needed.